

Tuesday 13 March 2012 - 12:00 PM

Lecture by **Susanne von Falkenhausen**, professor of art history (DE)

“The vision of Spheres”

The history of the spheric building as “cult space” of worship in the sense of a collective, creative unit and universalizing communication and experiential space of the French Revolution to the current media architectures. Bauvisionen for the temple of the People Souverain, National Monuments, People's Temple in Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, the architectures for media-driven, immersive experience of space in world exhibitions, theme parks, Omnimax cinema and museum buildings and the Blob-architecture of the last decade are the substance of this story. The two centuries of fascinating genealogy of this modern cult architecture leads to a totalizing critique of the importance of space imagery in the digital network age and design of the ideologies of 'liquid design'.

The book is a (cultural) history of architectural forms of worship in the modern rooms of the unit and a "School of Seeing", pointing out the surprising affinities between the classical and the digitally generated Kugeltypik Bauvisionen the present. It thus makes an equally amazing how conceptually compelling critique of architecture, indeed the culture shaped by the media of the present

Prof. Dr. Susanne von Falkenhausen is professor of art history at the Humboldt University, Berlin. A specialist in contemporary art, her main research topics include current American art, feminist theories as well as gender studies in the history of modern art. She writes and teaches on the history of western art since the French Revolution, with a focus on relationships between form and its contexts in modern political systems. She is author of writings on the Italian avant-garde and fascism, architectural history, nineteenth-century art in Italy and Germany, and of reflections on art history itself.